

Division of Fire Prevention

Holiday Fire Bulletin

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*Happy
Holidays*

Holidays are times that all Kentuckians enjoy spending with family and friends. During this time, many of us decorate our homes and places of work to further cherish the holiday feeling with trees, signs, lights, and candles. The information in the brochure is to help you and your associates in decorating for a "safe holiday." Below is a list of safety pamphlets, flyers and videos available on the Division of Fire Prevention website.

Feel free to download and distribute them to clients and associates throughout the coming year.

On behalf of all of the staff at the the Division of Fire Prevention, have an enjoyable and safe holiday season!

CANDLES

Whether for tradition or decoration, candles need special care when used.

Keep candles away from items that can catch fire. Do not place candles on or near any decorative vegetation or trees.

Always use candles in holders that are sturdy and adequately collect dripping wax. Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or going to sleep.

Are you heating your home safely? Please remember these safe home heating tips during the following cold months:

HEATERS

Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that might burn.

Be sure that you are only using the correct fuels for the appropriate heater (do NOT mix gasoline and kerosene).

When using electrical heating appliances, be sure not to overload circuits.

TREES

For some people, the placement of a tree in your home signifies the beginning of the holiday season. Before doing this, consider the following points:

The location of the tree should not be in the way of doors, windows, or in paths used for exiting.

Trees should be a distance, at least equal to the height of the tree, away from open flames and sources of ignition. This includes heaters, fireplaces, and woodstoves.

Buildings such as theatres, schools, hotel/motels, restaurants, covered malls, assisted living homes and retail stores have restrictions on when natural cut trees can be placed inside them. Natural cut trees shall never be placed in day care centers, nursing homes, hospitals, or assisted-living facilities.

Use a stand that can adequately hold up the tree. Before placing the tree in the stand, cut at least 1/2 inch of the stem off to give a fresh surface for the water to be in contact with.

Proper placement of the tree in water and on-going maintenance will make the tree safe and last throughout the holiday season. Ensure that the tree stem is covered by at least 2 inches of water at all times and check the level at least daily.

GENERAL HOLIDAY SAFETY

Decorating, both indoor and outdoor, can be exciting. Here are some tips to help assure that your holiday is a safe one:

Ensure that your family and friends that are staying for the holidays know your home fire escape plan.

Have your chimney or vent for your fireplace or wood-stove cleaned and inspected before use for the season.

Keep a fire extinguisher handy in your home and have functional smoke detectors installed. Check all of your smoke alarms regularly.

Whenever possible, use flame-retardant or flame-resistant decorating materials. Never use natural vegetation indoors that is not set in water or soils.

Watch for overloading of electrical circuits. Use listed power distribution blocks or strips with automatic circuit protection when overloaded or overheated.

If a fire breaks out in your home, leave immediately and call 911 from a neighbor's home.

LIGHTS

Make sure cords and wiring are intact. Discard frayed or damaged cords immediately. Try to use Christmas lights that have fuses in the plugs. All outdoor electrical decorations should be plugged into a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI).

Portable units for outdoor use are available, or you can have them permanently installed by an electrician.

Use extension cords properly. Do not overload extension cords.

